

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 AID-05 /097 W

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R 010530Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6956
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2107

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR LA US
SUBJECT: LAO INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTS BRIEFLY ON COLOMBO NON-
ALIGNED MEETING AND LAO-AMERICAN RELATIONS

1. LAO INFORMATION MINISTER SISANA SISANE GREETED ME
IN VERY FRIENDLY MANNER AT MALAYSIAN NATIONAL DAY
RECEPTION AUGUST 31. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD
SEEN HIM SINCE HIS RETURN FROM COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED
CONFERENCE. I TOLD HIM I HAD HEARD HE HAD BEEN PRETTY
HARD ON ASEAN AT COLOMBO. HE LAUGHED AND REPLIED THAT
"WE WEREN'T THE ONLYONES." HE THEN BRUSHED ASIDE ANY
FURTHER DISCUSSION OF ASEAN AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE
THOUGHT THAT NOT MUCH ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE
LAO STATEMENTS ON ASEAN AT COLOMBO.

2.SISANA THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT MANY JOURNALISTS
HAD QUESTIONED HIM AT COLOMBO ABOUT LAO RELATIONS WITH
THE UNITED STATES. HE HAD TOLD THEM THAT LAOS STILL
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HAD AND WANTED TO KEEP DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE

UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, HE HAD ALSO TOLD THEM THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE TO STOP "ALL THIS CIA ACTIVITY" AGAINST LAOS.

3. I ASKED SISANA IF HE HAD HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO KHAMPHAY BOUPHA ABOUT HIS CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR MANSFIELD ON AUGUST 17. HE SAID HE HAD NOT. I SUGGESTED HE DO SO. I TOLD HIM KHAMPHAY BOUPHA HAD BROUGHT UP THE "CIA QUESTION" AT GREAT LENGTH. SENATOR MANSFIELD HAD LISTENED AND REPLIED THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM AS MEMBER OF THE CIA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND HIS RECENT VISIT TO THAILAND HAD INDICATED CLEARLY TO HIM THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN THESE CHARGES. HOWEVER, THE SENATOR HAD INVITED KHAMPHAY BOUPHA TO GIVE ME ANY CONCRETE EVIDENCE OR SPECIFIC CHARGES THE LAO MIGHT HAVE TO OFFER ON THIS SUBJECT AND HAD ASSURED HIM THAT ANY SUCH EVIDENCE OR CHARGES WOULD BE INVESTIGATED.
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